

Message Text

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45

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COA-02 OIC-04 RSR-01 RSC-01 EB-11

INT-08 DOTE-00 CEQ-02 COME-00 SS-15 L-03 H-02 NSC-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

ACDA-19 CG-00 SCI-06 /149 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0381

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04165

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UN, SENV

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON OFFSHORE OPERATIONS IN NORTH SEA

REF: USUN 1259 (NOTAL)

1. CONFERENCE IN QUESTION WAS " CONFERENCE ON SAFETY AND POLLUTION SAFEGUARDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH- WEST EUROPEAN OFFSHORE MINERAL RESOURCES," HELD UNDER AUSPICES UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY FROM MARCH 12 THROUGH 23. FIRST WEEK DEVOTED TO TECHNICAL MATTERS CONCERNING SAFETY OF CONSTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT, SAFETY OF PERSONNEL, AND SAFETY OF OPERATIONS IN DRILLING AND PRODUCTION. SECOND WEEK CONCERNED WITH LEGAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING CIVIL LIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION AND FOR CLEANUP. WE UNDERSTAND NO DISCUSSION OF LAW OF THE SEA SUBJECTS AS SUCH, BUT CONFERENCE DID GET INTO PERIPHERAL ISSUES ESPECIALLY WHEN CONSIDERING MARINE POLLUTION. DTI HAS PROMISED US SET OF PAPERS PREPARED FOR CONFERENCE AND ON RECEIPT THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. INITIATIVE FOR CONFERENCE, OF WHICH LONDON MEETING
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WAS FIRST SESSION, TAKEN BY BRITISH AND AIMED AT ESTABLISHING UNIFORM SAFETY AND POLLUTION SAFEGUARDS IN EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION NORTH SEA OIL AND OTHER MINERAL RESOURCES. ALL NORTH SEA RIPARIANS ATTENDED. WE ARE TOLD THAT AT NOVEMBER 1972 MEETING IN PARIS OF AN OECD GROUP ON CIVIL LIABILITY ARISING OUT OF DRILLING AT SEA, BRITISH ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF HOLDING SUBJECT CONFERENCE OF NORTH SEA COUNTRIES AND INVITED ALL OECD COUNTRIES TO SEND OBSERVERS. US REP (OUR INFORMANT COULD NOT REMEMBER WHO HE WAS) INDICATED INTENTION TO ATTEND, BUT JAPANESE OBSERVER INFORMED US THAT JAPAN AND ITALY WERE ONLY NON- RIPARIAN COUNTRIES PRESENT.

3. THROUGH PAPER PRESENTED BY FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CONFERENCE WAS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF IMCO'S MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 26 THROUGH 30. MSC DISCUSSION BROUGHT OUT NEED FOR GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN SUCH REGIONAL CONFERENCES TO CALL ATTENTION TO IMCO ACTIVITIES IN MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND SAFETY AT SEA. IMCO SECRETARIAT WAS REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE SESSIONS OF CONFERENCE AND SIMILAR MEETINGS IN ORDER AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW 1973 DRAFT MARINE POLLUTION CONVENTION THAT DEFINES SHIP AS INCLUDING FIXED OR FLOATING PLATFORMS OPERATING IN MARINE ENVIRONMENT. APPARENT FROM EXCHANGES IN MSC THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MANNING DELEGATIONS TO NORTH SEA SAFETY AND POLLUTION CONFERENCE WERE COMPLETE STRANGERS TO OFFICIALS NORMALLY ATTENDING IMCO MEETINGS ON MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS; IN FACT NETHERLANDS REP TO MSC LEARNED FOR FIRST TIME THAT CONFERENCE HELD AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATED.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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